

# Safety On The Road

## Look Out For The Little Guy!

All drivers need to be alert to the presence of small vehicles on the road — the compact car hiding in the truck driver's blind spot, the bicycle courier passing on the right side at an intersection and the on-coming motorcycle on the highway.

### **Here are some reminders for drivers of trucks and other large vehicles to look out for smaller vehicles:**

- Do not follow too closely. A small car can stop more quickly than a large truck, with the risk of your truck running over a smaller vehicle from behind.
- Be aware of any vehicles beside or behind you. Make sure they are not in your blind spot as you change lanes. Check for small vehicles passing on the right, especially at or near intersections.
- Be careful about judging distances based on the space between headlights and tail lights on another vehicle. What appears to be a larger vehicle further away could actually be a small vehicle quite close to you.
- Never assume a “one-eyed” vehicle is a motorcycle — it could be a car with a burned out headlight.
- Bicycles are difficult to see at night, particularly if the rider is not wearing reflective clothing. It is also difficult to determine your distance from a bicycle based on the bike's reflectors or headlights. Assume a bike is closer than you think it is.
- Show the same respect for motorcycles and bicycles you would show other vehicles on the road. They are subject to the same laws and have the same rights.
- Use extra caution around bikes of all kinds. They may be faster or more maneuverable than larger vehicles under ideal conditions, but their riders are far more vulnerable to injuries.
- Most bicycle car accidents are caused by cyclists who disregard traffic rules. Bicyclists often fail to signal for turns because they need both hands to control the bicycle. So do not depend on the rider's signals and be prepared for unexpected turns. Also watch for bicyclists traveling against the traffic — it's illegal, but it happens.
- Give a bicycle a cushion of space similar to what you would give a larger vehicle. Do not crowd a bike. By keeping a safe following distance, you will help protect the rider if he has to stop or takes a fall.
- Two-wheeled vehicles can travel fast, so make sure you can pass if you attempt to. Tap your horn lightly to indicate your intention, but do not startle the rider. Allow plenty of space for the bike's wobbly course as you travel around it.
- Before you open a vehicle door to get out, check both your rear and side mirrors for bikes as well as cars.

*Expect a bike to appear from anywhere at any time. Watch out for all smaller vehicles, including motorcycles and bikes. They are undersized and often overlooked.*

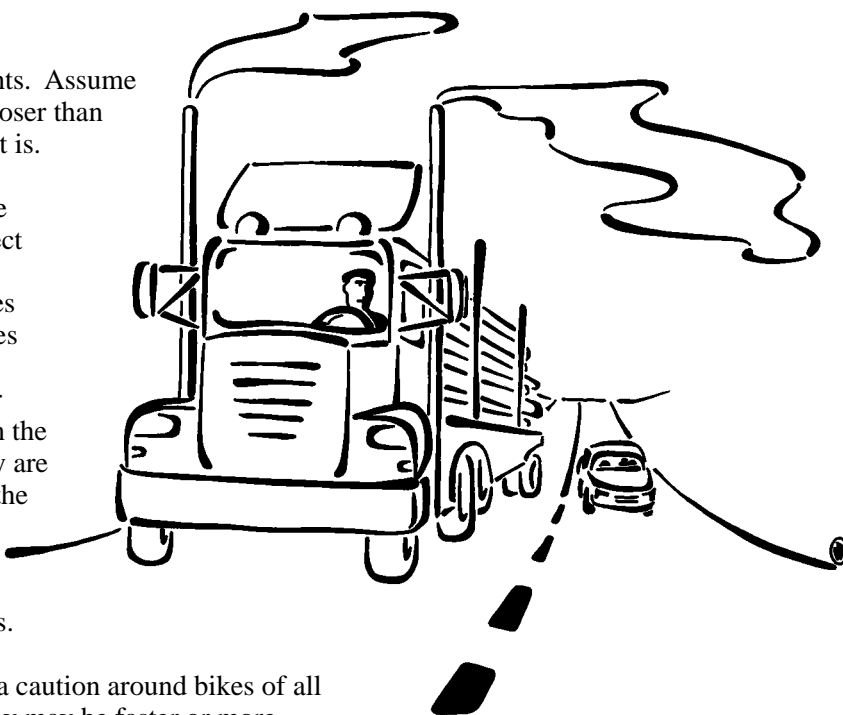
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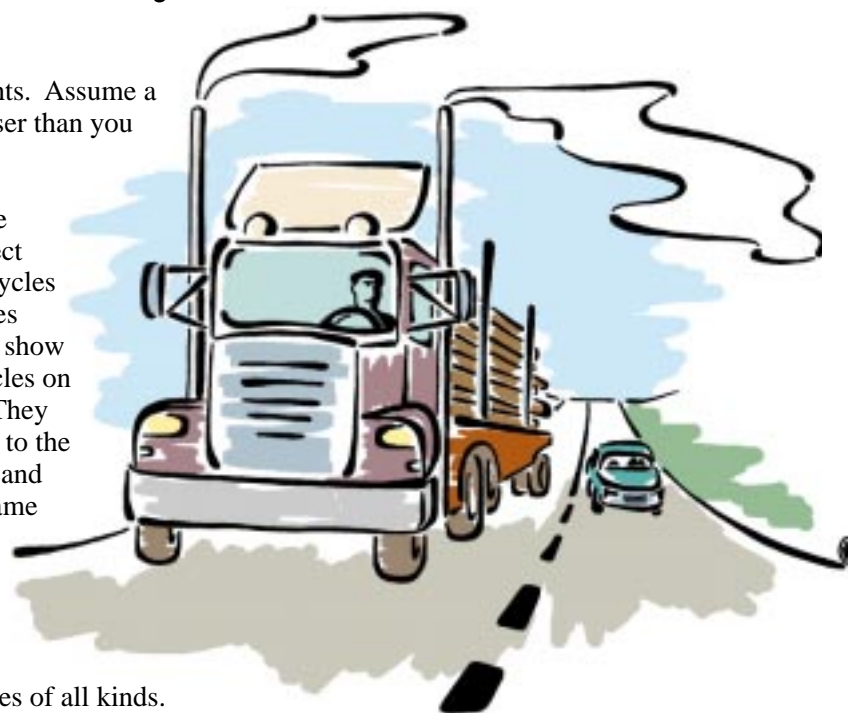
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